

# ***Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) - a new record for Peninsular India**

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## **Abstract**

*Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (Orchidaceae) is reported for the first time from Peninsular India and described with illustrations.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Our recent studies on the flora of the Senduruny Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala yielded many interesting plant records. *Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f., from the Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary is reported here as a new record for Peninsular India. Brief illustrative account of the species is given for easy identification.

***Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f.**, Fl. Brit. India 6 : 108. 1890 & Ic. Pl. t. 2177. 1894; Seidenf., Dansk Bot. Ark. 32 : 88. 1978 (Fig. 1).

*Etaeria affinis* Lindl., Wall. Cat. No. 7383. 1832, *nom. nud.*

*Monochilus affinis* Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orch. 487. 1840. pp.

Terrestrial herbs, 20-30 cm tall. Leaves 3-4 x 1-1.5 cm, ovate or elliptic acute, sheathing at base. Peduncle 15-25 cm long, pubescent. Bracts 6 x 1.5 mm, ovate acuminate, pubescent. Flowers white, 2 x 1 cm; sepals pubescent without; dorsal sepal 6 x 5 mm, ovate, obtuse; lateral sepals 6 x 5 mm, elliptic, obtuse; petals 6-6.5 x 2.5 mm, falcately oblong-obtuse, connate with dorsal sepal; lip 11 x 10 mm, saccate at base with two cylindrical acute glands; epichile 2-lobulate; lobules each 7 x 3.5-4 mm, obovate or obconical, truncate, wavy along margins; column 5 x 2.5 mm; stigmatic lobes two fleshy protuberances, marginal; rostellum 1 x 0.3 mm, oblanceolate-oblong, slightly curved. Ovary with pedicel 1.5 cm long.

**Flowering** : January - February.

**Occurrence** : Very rare in evergreen forests.

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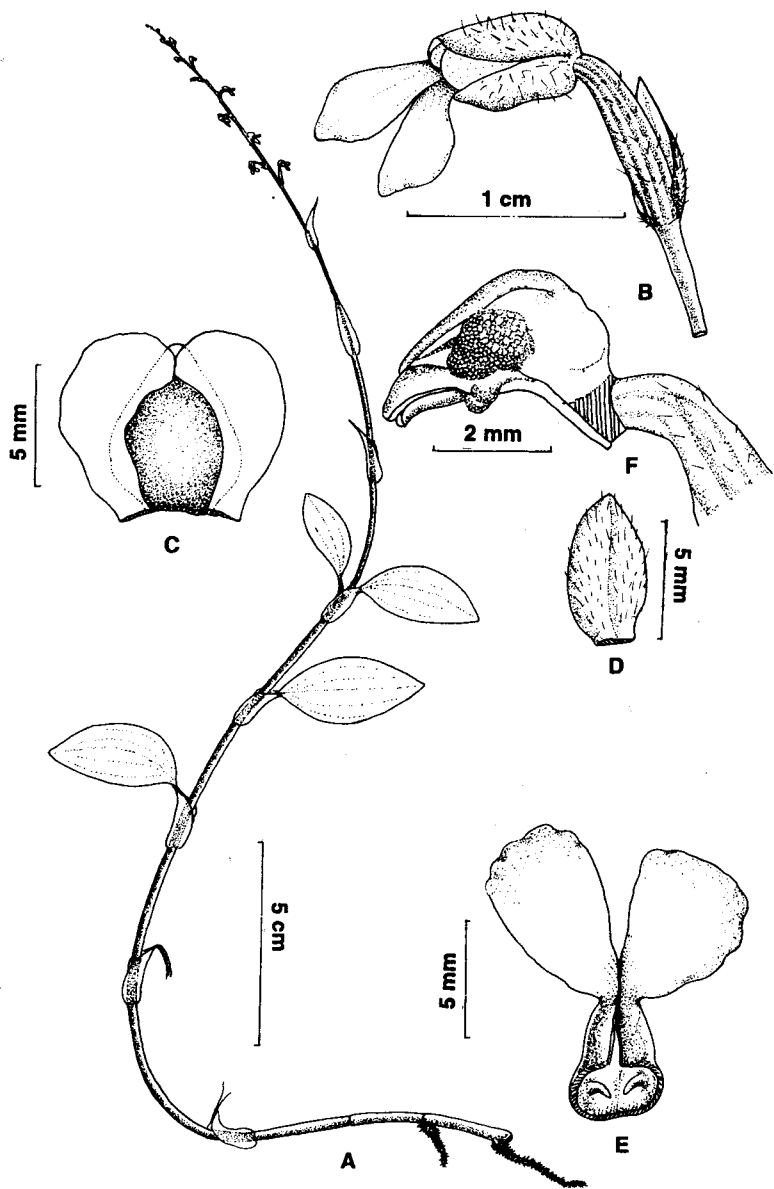


Fig 1. *Zeuxine affinis* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f. (A-F) : A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Dorsal sepal and petals; D. Lateral sepal; E. lip, F. Column.

***Zeuxine affinis***

*Specimens examined* : Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary, Quilon district, Kerala,  $\pm$  1400 m, 19.02.1995, N. Sasidharan 11439 (KFRI)

*Note* : This species is reported from India (Sikkim, Meghalaya), Bhutan, Burma, Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos and Peninsular Malaysia (Seidenfaden, 1978, Seidenfaden & Wood, 1992). It differs from *Z. longilabris* (Lindl.) Benth. ex Hook.f., having obovate or obconical lobules of lip with wavy margins. Our specimens have larger lip compared to Seidenfaden (1978).

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